

Golden Text:

Luke 12: ³² My little flock, don't be afraid. *God is your Father, and your Father's great joy is to give you His kingdom.* ³⁴ *Your treasure will be stored in the heavens, and since your treasure is there, your heart will be lodged there as well.*

Responsive Reading:

Psalms 103: ¹⁹ The Eternal has established His throne up in the heavens.

He rules over every seen and unseen realm and creature.

²² Give praise to the Eternal, all that He has made in all corners of His creation.

O my soul, *come*, praise the Eternal!

Psalms 104: ¹³ *And the clouds, too, drink up their share, raining it back down on the mountains from the upper reaches of Your home, Sustaining the whole earth with what comes from You. And the earth is satisfied.*

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Thus You grow grain for bread, *grapes for wine*, grass for cattle—
all of this for us.

And so we have bread to make our bodies strong,
wine to make our hearts happy,
oil to make our faces shine.

Every good thing we need, Your earth provides;
our faces grow flush with Your life in them.

¹⁶ The forests are Yours, Eternal One—*stout hardwoods* watered deeply, *swollen with sap*—
like the *great cedars of Lebanon* You planted

²⁴ There is so much here, O Eternal One, so much You have made.

By the wise way in which You create, *riches and* creatures fill the earth.

Proverbs 8: Isn't Lady Wisdom calling?

Listen; don't you hear the voice of understanding crying out?

¹⁰ Accept my correction as being more valuable than your prized possession,
authentic knowledge more valuable than pure gold.

¹⁴ *Good* counsel is mine, and also true wisdom. I am understanding, and strength belongs to me.

¹⁵ It's because of me that kings wield power and authorities decree what is right.

¹⁸ Riches and honor are *the benefit of* following me; so are lasting wealth and justice.

¹⁹ My reward is better than gold, even the purest gold;
and my profit is greater than the highest quality silver.

²⁰ I follow the way of right living.

Follow me along the path to find justice;

²¹ I'm ready to meet those who love me, bestow *true* riches upon them,
and fill up *their lives until* their treasures overflow.

Section 1:

“True substance never wanes; it's eternal!” from myBibleLesson

1. Proverbs 3: ⁹ Pay tribute to the Eternal in all of your affairs.

Honor Him with the best of what you make.

2. Deuteronomy 28: ¹² He will open up the reservoirs of water in the sky and make the rainy seasons come each year, so that everything you do will be blessed. *Your*

Subject: Substance

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The Voice

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[Bible note: The Voice Bible uses the term “Anointed” for “Christ.” Thus when you see the word Anointed, you may substitute Christ.]

produce will be so abundant that you'll lend to many nations, but you won't have to borrow from any.

3. 1 Chronicles 29:¹¹ All that is great and powerful and glorious and victorious and majestic is Yours, O Eternal One.

Indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth belongs to You.

The kingdom belongs to You, O Eternal One, and You are the head of it all.

¹² Wealth and glory come from You, and You rule over them all.

In Your hand is power and strength, and You use them to make great and strengthen everyone.

Section 2:

“Loving God with all your heart brings spiritual riches.”
From myBibleLesson

4. Psalm 62:¹⁰ ... If you achieve wealth, don't let your heart get attached.

5. Deuteronomy 6: **Moses:**⁴ Listen, Israel! The Eternal is our True God—He alone.⁵ You should love Him, your True God, with all your heart and soul, with every ounce of your strength.

[Bible note: The phrase “a land flowing with milk and honey” is certainly metaphorical. Moses doesn't mean that the rivers and streams of the promised land literally flow with milk and honey rather than with water. But he does want the people to have such a picture in their minds. He wants them to know they will be leaving behind the nomadic, foraging existence they have known in the wilderness. They will settle in a new land where their cattle will be well fed and will be able to provide them with milk in abundance. They will have

the freedom to pursue even more discretionary activities since date honey would seep out of the trees without needing cultivating. God's promise isn't just that they will possess the land but that they will find rest, abundance, and health in it.]

6. Proverbs 2: My son, if you accept what I am telling you

and store my *counsel and* directives *deep* within you,
² If you listen for Lady Wisdom, *attune your ears to her*, and engage your mind to understand *what she is telling you*,

³ If you cry out *to her* for insight and beg for understanding,

⁴ *If you sift through the clamor of everything around you*

to seek her like some precious prize, to search for her like buried treasure;

⁵ Then you will grasp what it means to truly respect the Eternal,

and you will have discovered the knowledge of *the one True God*.

7. Proverbs 12:²⁷ ... hard workers prize everything they have.

8. 1 Kings 3:⁵ The Eternal revealed Himself to Solomon in a dream while he was still in Gibeon.

Eternal One: Tell me, what is your request of Me?

Solomon:⁶ You have already revealed Your loyal love to my father, David, for he lived by Your truth and righteousness and honor *during the days of his life*. You have continued to show this loyal love to him by giving him a son who now reigns upon his throne.⁷ Eternal One, my God, You have allowed me to serve as my father David served, but I am still young and inexperienced. I don't know much about anything,⁸ yet I am supposed to lead Your chosen people who are

innumerable and even uncountable.⁹ Please give Your servant a listening heart for judging Your people and for knowing the difference between what is good and what is evil. Who is capable of judging Your *chosen* ones, a great people?

¹⁰ The Lord was delighted by Solomon’s request.

Eternal One:¹¹ Since you have asked for wisdom and not for an extended lifetime or for personal wealth or for the annihilation of your enemies, since you have instead asked for the ability to understand justice,¹² I will honor your request. I have planted the deepest human wisdom into your heart.

Section 3:

“Find true substance in God’s infinite blessings.” From myBibleLesson

9. Deuteronomy 28: Moses: If you listen closely to the voice of the Eternal your God and carefully obey all the commands I’m giving you today, He’ll lift you up high above every other nation on earth.² All of the following blessings will be yours—in fact, they’ll chase after you—if you’ll listen to what He tells you.

[Bible note: Moses now recites the blessings that will come to the people if they keep their covenant with the Lord and the curses they’ll experience if they don’t. By making these a part of the treaty itself, Moses is calling on God to use them to enforce the covenant.

The blessings are listed first. This reflects God’s primary intention toward us: to bless and not to curse. When the Lord reveals His glory and character to Moses (Exodus 34:6–7), He declares at length that He’s a God of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness, and only then adds that He will never allow injustice.]

Moses:³ You’ll be blessed in the city and blessed in the fields.

⁵ Your basket will be blessed; *it will be full at harvest time,*

and your kneading bowl *will be blessed; you’ll always have plenty of bread.*

⁶ You’ll be blessed when you go out *of your home* and blessed when you return *to your home.*

10. Hebrews 10:³⁴ Remember how you had compassion for those in prison and how you cheerfully accepted the seizure of your possessions, knowing that you have a far greater and more enduring possession.

11. Matthew 4:¹⁷ From that time on, preaching was part of Jesus’ work.

Jesus: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

12. Matthew 6: Jesus:²⁴ No one can serve two masters. *If you try, you will wind up loving the first master and hating the second, or vice versa. People try to serve both God and money—but you can’t. You must choose one or the other.*

²⁵ Here is the bottom line: do not worry about your life. Don’t worry about what you will eat or what you will drink. Don’t worry about how you clothe your body. Living is about more than merely eating, and the body is about more than dressing up.

²⁸ ... Consider the lilies of the field and how they grow. They do not work or weave or sew, *and yet their garments are stunning.*²⁹ Even King Solomon, dressed in his most regal garb, was not as lovely as these lilies.

13. Luke 12:³² My little flock, don’t be afraid. *God is your Father, and your Father’s great joy is to give you His kingdom.*

³³ That means you can sell your possessions and give generously to the poor. You can have a different kind

of savings plan: one that never depreciates, one that never defaults, one that can't be plundered by crooks or destroyed by natural calamities.³⁴ *Your treasure will be stored in the heavens*, and since your treasure is there, your heart will be lodged there as well.

Section 4:

"Real treasures are revealed by spiritual, not material identity." From myBibleLesson

14. Luke 6:⁴⁴ You can know a tree by the fruit it bears. You don't find figs on a thorn bush, and you can't pick grapes from a briar bush.⁴⁵ *It's the same with people.* A person full of goodness in his heart produces good things; a person with an evil reservoir in his heart pours out evil things. The heart overflows in the words a person speaks; your words reveal what's within your heart.

15. Luke 19: Jesus enters Jericho and seems only to be passing through.² Living in Jericho is a man named Zaccheus. He's the head tax collector and is very rich.³ He is also very short. He wants to see Jesus as He passes through the center of town, but he can't get a glimpse because the crowd blocks his view.⁴ So he runs ahead of the crowd and climbs up into a sycamore tree so he can see Jesus when He passes beneath him.⁵ Jesus comes along and looks up into the tree[, and there He sees Zaccheus].^[a]

Jesus: Zaccheus, hurry down from that tree because I need to stay at your house *tonight*.

⁶ Zaccheus scrambles down and joyfully brings Jesus back to his house.⁷ Now the crowd sees this, and they're upset.

Crowd (grumbling): Jesus has become the houseguest of this fellow who is a notorious sinner.

Zaccheus:⁸ Lord, I am giving half of my goods to the poor, and whomever I have cheated I will pay back four times what I took.

Jesus:⁹ Today liberation has come to this house, since even Zaccheus is living as a son of Abraham.¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to liberate the lost.

Footnote: a. [19:5](#) The earliest manuscripts omit this portion.

16. 1 Timothy 6:¹⁷ Here's what you say to those wealthy in regard to this age: "Don't become high and mighty or place all your hope on a gamble for riches; instead, fix your hope on God, the One who richly provides everything for our enjoyment."

Section 5:

"Understanding substance enables us to heal." From myBibleLesson

17. Jeremiah 31:³³ This is the *kind of new covenant* I will make with the people of Israel when those days are over. I will put My law within them. I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.

18. Jeremiah 33:⁶ *Nevertheless*, keep watching! I will restore this city and heal the wounds of My people. I will lavish them with peace and stability.

19. Philippians 4:¹⁹ *Know this:* my God will also fill every need you have according to His glorious riches in [Christ] Jesus the Anointed, *our Liberating King*.

20. Matthew 15:³⁰ Crowds thronged to Him there, bringing the lame, *the maimed*, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many other *sick and broken* people. They laid them at His feet, and He healed them.

Section 6:

"Infinite spiritual substance is our greatest treasure."
myBibleLesson

21. Romans 11: ³³ *We cannot wrap our minds around God's wisdom and knowledge!*

22. Ephesians 1: Paul, an emissary [apostle] of Jesus [Christ] the Anointed, *directly commissioned as His representative* by the will of God, to the saints [in Ephesus] faithful in [Christ] Jesus the Anointed.

² May God the Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed surround you with grace and peace.

[Bible note: This letter begins with praise and thanksgiving offered to God. Paul celebrates all the spiritual "blessings" available to all believers in Jesus, the Anointed One. This means that He is the one through whom God has acted to rescue the world. But more than that, He is the Lord to whom we belong and the spiritual place where all believers are presently located. In God's purpose, heaven has come down to where we live so that we now occupy this wonderful realm where salvation is at work, where God's truth and beauty are a reality, and where we wait as the rest of His plan is worked out.]

¹⁵ This is why, when I heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus that is present in your community and of your great love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I haven't stopped thanking Him for you. I am continually speaking to Him on your behalf in my prayers. *Here's what I say:*

¹⁷ God of our Lord Jesus [Christ], the Anointed, Father of Glory: *I call out to You on behalf of Your people.* Give them minds ready to receive wisdom and revelation so they will truly know You. ¹⁸ Open the eyes of their hearts, *and let the light of Your truth flood in.* Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to

embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance.

23. 3 John 1: ² My beloved friend, I pray that everything is going well for you and that your body is as healthy as your soul is prosperous.

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